

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

# MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • June/ July 2013

Let the  
SON Shine

... in Portobello this Summer



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news



Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

		Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer
		Wed	7.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
July	7th	Sun	3.00 p.m.	Management Meeting (T.B.C.)
	13th	Sat	11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.	Cafe Day
	25th	Thurs	7.30 p.m.	Vision Group Meeting
September	4th	Wed	7.30 p.m.	Church Manse, Open House
	28th	Sat	11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.	Edinburgh Open Doors Day 2013 <i>inc. Portobello Baptist Church!</i>
	28th	Sat	9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Duncan Street Baptist Church Annual Bible Conference “Dear Timothy”

## FUTURE SERMON PLAN

July	7th	– (Matt. 11: 1–15) “Free from doubt”
	14th	– (Matt. 11: 16–30) “Free to dance, drink & eat too much!”
	21st	– (Matt. 11: 28–30) “Free from burdens”
	28th	– (Matt. 12: 1–21) “Free from rules”
August	4th	– (Matt. 12: 22–37) “Free speech”
	11th	– (Matt. 12: 38–50) “Free to believe”
	18th	– “Lyrics of life”
	25th	– “No other gods”

## SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

July	7th	Rev Leslie Edge (Chaplain, Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice) Rev Bob Adams (Army Chaplain, York)	
	14th	Alness & Alva	May Cafe Day: <i>Christian Aid</i>
	21st	Ardbeg, Rothesay & Arran	
	28th	Ayr & Barnton, Edinburgh	£225.00

## MAY OFFERING

	5th	£486.00	19th	£814.00	June Cafe Day: <i>Macmillan Nurses</i>
	12th	£738.00	26th	£496.00	£134.00

## JUNE OFFERING

	2nd	£665.00	16th	£564.00	30th	£650.00
	9th	£696.00	23rd	£603.00		



Dear Friends,

“(The apostles) went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them ... they gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

*(Mark 6)*

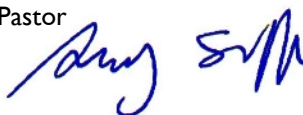
I have sometimes come across Christians who live by the motto, “I’d rather burn out than rust out”, and they proceed to do just that, with disastrous consequences to their health, family and spiritual life. Frankly, I would prefer to do neither. Jesus offers the third way in this passage from Mark’s Gospel. In the midst of a busy life, packing into three short years, the preparation of a band of followers who would change the world, Jesus invites them to “Come apart” (KJV) and rest. No work was so important that they could not rest in the presence of Jesus.

Possibly John remembered that important lesson: According to tradition, when he was bishop in Ephesus, his hobby was raising pigeons. On one occasion an Ephesian elder passed his house as he returned from hunting. When he saw John playing with one of his birds, he gently chided the old bishop for spending his time so frivolously. John looked at his critic’s bow and remarked that the string was loosened. “Yes,” said the huntsman, “I loosen the string of my bow when it’s not in use. If it always stayed tight, it would lose its rebounding quality and fail me in the hunt.” “And I,” said John, “am now relaxing the bow of my mind so that I may be better able to shoot the arrows of divine truth.”

The writer to the Hebrews says something similar: “There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest ...” He is saying that taking rest points to a deeper truth: That we have rested from our labours to “be good enough”, to please God. We demonstrate that we understand that the “labour” of salvation is something that only God can do for us.

You may or may not be able to take a holiday now that summer is approaching, with the sunshine we have all come to expect(!). Whether you do or do not, take some time to rest in the presence of Jesus, and come back to your work with fresh hope, strength, and crazy vision of all that God wants to do in your life, and the life of the community at Portobello.

Your Pastor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Smith".

## THE CHURCH FAMILY

We continue to remember, in prayer, all those who have been so faithful in the service of the Church and are no longer able to worship with us:

Wednesday, 4th September, 2013, 7.30 at 1/2, Joppa Station Place – mark the date, NOW!



## VISION ACTION GROUP

Some months ago Andy and the leaders brought together this small group representing a cross-section of Church members. The group will forward any significant suggestions/ ideas first to the Management Committee for approval, then to the Church Meeting. For your information current membership is as follows:

Winnie Beattie, Anne Colville, Andy Scarcliffe, Moira Scarcliffe (facilitator), Ewan Sinclair, Nick Timmins, Morven Wraight.

Currently the group has been working on draft Church vision and values; there are also several practical actions which have yet to go to the Management Committee (delayed because of holidays). Also, if you wonder what Moira, Ewan and Winnie are up to as they wander around the building after the service over the next few weeks, they are doing a "church de-clutter" audit!

If you have any thoughts or ideas you think might be helpful for the group to consider please speak to one of the above. Your prayers appreciated – our next two meetings are 25th July and 5th September, both at 7.30 p.m.

(Moira Scarcliffe)

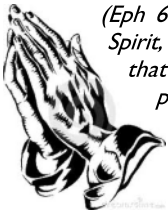
## A SINCERE THANK YOU

Just a note to say thank you to all those who have expressed their concern and support to us following Bill's accident.

(Bill & Bett Blackie)

## PRAYING FOR THE FLOCK

(1 Thess. 5:17; Acts 6.4)



*(Eph 6:18) "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"*

Each month this new section will include a cluster of names taken from the Church Directory so that we can uphold them particularly in prayer over this month.

## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

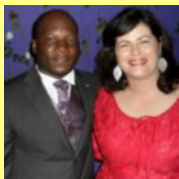
Last August we gathered at the recently acquired manse to give thanks to God for what He had done for us as a Church since July 2011 and to pray for the coming year. We agreed to do the same in a year's time, so ...

The Cockburn Association (Edinburgh's Civic Trust) organises Edinburgh Doors Open Day. Now in its 22nd year, the event has become one of the capital's most popular free days out. This is your chance to explore some of Edinburgh's most architecturally, culturally and socially significant buildings. Many venues feature behind the scenes tours, activities, exhibitions and/or talks which bring the history of the building, garden, cemetery or monument and its everyday use to life. Some sites organise additional free activities for children and families.

We are pleased to announce that Edinburgh Doors Open Day 2013 will take place on the 28th & 29th September.

**NEWS FROM ZAMBIA**

Dear friends,



Hello from Ndola. It has been a while since we updated you on happenings here. We are now in winter so mornings are cool,

lunchtimes hot and evenings chilly. It's a bit like a good summer in Scotland, and all is going well.

Schools are coming up to their long break in August. I am busy teaching material for end of year exams and finishing off books we have been studying. Sitongua has been enjoying his internship at a local school. He is teaching Religious Education and English. Last week he



had the opportunity of sharing how to become a Christian with one of his classes. The pupils asked lots of questions, and we are praying for God to grow the seed planted.

Thank you for your prayers for the children at the Adoption Centre. We have seen some changes there. First of all I ask you to pray for Steve. He had to be taken into hospital and is awaiting surgery for a blocked urethra. After a scan the surgery was postponed until this Friday (28 June). He's only five and it's frightening for him to be in hospital. Pray all would go well, that he would return pain free and that he will be given the best treatment, not be passed over as he is an orphan. Pray for a family for him too, as well as Andrew. Irene and Harrison have been adopted, Blessing is in the process of being adopted by an American friend, and Pr Gilbert, who used to be the Director of the Adoption Centre, says he will adopt Ignacious, Davison and Matson. Praise God. Sadly Ruth was diagnosed with a condition which means she has been transferred to an orphanage designed especially for children with her condition and where she will be well cared for. I hope to be able to visit her there. I discovered just last week that

Lucia and Shadreck both have relatives who say they will take them from the centre at some point. This makes them ineligible for adoption at the moment. It is amazing the way God has been working out these changes.

The number of pupils volunteering at the centre has increased and last

week I took eleven of them along to play with the children. They are now outnumbering the children. I was delighted that some of the Year 10 had taken the initiative to sort out some clothes to donate and also bought biscuits and lollipops to take. It is good to see them thinking of practical ways to help. They love holding and feeding baby Elvis, who joined the centre a few months ago. He is doing well and growing and his grandparents visit him. Please pray for these students.

The social education classes continue to be a good platform for getting the pupils to think about the choices they will make and put forward Christian values. Please keep praying for the school and students. There have been more opportunities for us to share our faith with the staff. A Bible study group has started with some mums and their children. Pray that it would grow. Last week we were blessed by a dance group who gave us a musical evening. It started with worship dance to Christian songs and then moved into music from The Sound of Music and Phantom of the Opera, followed by ballet from Sleeping Beauty. It is a rare thing to see ballet in Ndola and the hall was packed. The team got their message across in a very friendly way and everyone had a good time. God is at work in the school and we praise Him for it.

We are praying about the future and ask you to join us in that. Thanks for your faithful support and encouraging emails.

Every blessing,  
*Lynne & Sitongwa*

## **FOCUS: PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS**

Pakistan (Voice Of the Martyrs) [*Editor's note: Although Mission Network News*

*has been following the story of Asia Bibi and her blasphemy case in Pakistan, this most recent update was more personal in nature. What follows is the blog post verbatim from the Voice of the Martyrs.]*

Earlier this month Asia Bibi's husband, Ashiq, was able to visit her in jail. At the time of his visit Asia was sick and receiving treatment from the jail doctor. She complained of a lot of pain in her legs, shoulders, and arms.



Ashiq told Asia, "Take good care for your health and recover soon. The children are worried for you. They are daily praying for your good health and soon release." Asia said she is regularly praying in jail for her release and requested V. O. M. readers to pray with her.

Several days after Ashiq's visit to the prison, Asia was transferred from Sheikhpura jail to Multan jail. This change means that in order for her family to visit her, they will have to travel around five hours instead of only one hour. The extra travel also raises security concerns for the family. Asia's daughters in particular were discouraged by the news of their mother's transfer.

Please pray for Asia Bibi. Pray for healing of her body, encouragement to her spirit, and for her release from prison. Pray also for Ashiq and their daughters.

You can write letters of encouragement to Asia through Prisoner Alert. The site has been updated with her new prison address. Invite your friends to sign a petition to the Pakistani government on her behalf at [www.CallForMercy.com](http://www.CallForMercy.com).